

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon acceptance and entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, claims 2-6, 8-12 and 15-19 will be the only claims under active consideration in the subject patent application. Applicant notes that this amendment has been filed within two (2) months of the mailing date of the Final Action. Applicant requests entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection in order to place the case in better form for allowance or appeal.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has:

(1) stated that Applicant's arguments relative to claims 7 and 13, filed on December 15, 2005, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the following grounds of rejection;

(2) advised Applicant to submit all pertinent information on related or commonly owned patents and applications for the purpose of eliminating Double Patenting issues;

(3) rejected claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger et al.; and

(4) identified claims 2-6, 8-12 and 15-19 as presenting subject matter that is allowable over all of the prior art of record in the case.

With regard to Item 1, no comment appears to be necessary.

With regard to Item 2, Applicant hereby advises that there are (i) no related or commonly owned patents or applications currently on file with the Patent Office, and (ii) no double patenting issues related to this application that are known to Applicant.

With regard to Item 3, Applicant categorically disagrees with the Examiner's allegation that claims 7 and 13 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger et al. However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has cancelled claims 7 and 13, without prejudice to its right to pursue the subject matter presented by those claims in related applications. Applicant's actions in this case are not intended to be an admission of any kind with regard to U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, or its bearing upon the patentability of the subject matter presented in now canceled claims 7 and 13.

With regard to Item 4, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's determination that claims 2-6, 8-12 and 15-19 are allowable over the prior art of record in the case. The foregoing changes to the Application have been made so as to place the claims in form for issuance of a Notice of Allowability as indicated by the Examiner in the Final Official Action. No further substantive search or examination would be necessary by the Examiner as the remaining claims have all been determined to present allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment after Final Rejection into the application, and the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance. Please charge any fees necessary in connection with this matter to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicant's undersigned Attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at 215-979-1255.

Respectfully submitted,

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